



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES PASSES RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROVINCIAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

In July 2012, the Government of Ontario entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association. The MoU was reached without representation from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA), which represents Catholic school boards across the province.

"This action on the part of the Minister of Education sets a bad precedent for school board negotiations in Ontario," says Linda Ward, Trustee for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board and a Regional Director for the OCSTA.

"Catholic trustees are the legally elected representatives of Ontario taxpayers who support Catholic schools and, as such, should be represented at the table when any contract agreements are reached," says Mrs. Ward.

St. Clair Catholic has not been a signatory to the MoU, along with many other Catholic school boards across the province.

At the October 23, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, Mrs. Ward brought forward a notice of motion for passage of a resolution critical of the MoU. The full text of the resolution, which was unanimously passed at tonight's Board meeting, is below.

WHEREAS school board trustees are democratically elected by the people of Ontario to be leaders and stewards of the Ontario education system; and

WHEREAS local school board trustees are legally entrusted with the well-being of Ontario's students; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Education Act and the Ontario Labour Relations Act give the powers of an employer to local school boards; and

WHEREAS the rights and powers of the democratically elected school board trustees were usurped by the Minister of Education on July 5, 2012 with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association; and

WHEREAS the aforementioned action by the Minister of Education has negatively impacted the St. Clair Catholic District School Board;

Therefore be it resolved that the St. Clair Catholic District School Board make this circumstance known to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Education and the three Members of Provincial Parliament, who represent the ratepayers across the jurisdiction of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board, and any and all interested/affected parties.

Similar resolutions are being passed by other Catholic school boards across Ontario.